

Questions and Answers from the November 7, 2005 Advanced AmeriCorps*State Grant Training Session Meetings about the Grant Application Process

Can we use federal funds to match?

Most federal funds are not authorized to be used as match for another federal grant. While the Corporation's legislation may permit the use of non-corporation federal funds as match for the grantee share of the budget for operating and administrative costs, the determining factor is the other federal agency. You must insure that your use of another federal agency's funds as match for this national service program is permitted by the other agency.

Do you have to offer health insurance?

You must offer health care benefits to full-time members in accordance with AmeriCorps requirements. Except as stated below you may not pay health care benefits to half-time members with Corporation funds. You may choose to provide health care benefits to half-time members from other sources (i.e., non-federal). Half-time members who are serving in a full-time capacity for a sustained period of time (such as a full-time summer project) may be eligible for health care benefits supported with our funds, subject to applicable match requirements. However, the Corporation must either approve this in the grant agreement or by prior written approval. In your budget narrative, indicate the number of members who will receive the project's existing health care benefits. If you have an existing health benefit policy for your full-time members that meets minimum requirements, you may request 85% of those as CNCS/federal funds. You must match the remainder in cash. The Corporation will not pay for dependent coverage.

What happens to members who are public assistance?

According to Vol II MS 5210 19 (d) any program funded through AmeriCorps would be excluded as income in the food stamp case if the recipient was participating in the food stamp program prior to participating in the AmeriCorps program. The caseworker needs to verify on a case-by-case basis if the income being reported is funded through the AmeriCorps program.

Do we have to have workers compensation and unemployment?

Kentucky requires workers compensation for AmeriCorps members to cover in-service injury or incidents.

Kentucky does not consider AmeriCorps members as employees and therefore you do not need to provide them with unemployment insurance.

What are the requirements for tutors?

See 45 C.F.R. §§ 2522.900-2522.950

Tutoring curriculum must be high quality and research-based, consistent with the instructional program of the local educational agency or with State academic content standards. Requirements apply to any program whose primary goal is to increase academic achievement in reading or other core subjects through planned, consistent, one-to-one or small-group sessions and activities that build on the academic strengths of students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and target their academic needs. Programs must articulate appropriate criteria for selecting and qualifying tutors, including the requirement that tutors either have a high school-diploma or its equivalent, or pass a proficiency test. Tutors that are part of a cross-grade in-school tutoring program are exempt from the high-school diploma/proficiency test requirement. Pre- and in-service tutor training required to be high quality and research-based consistent with the instructional program of the local educational agency or with State academic content standards. In addition to general requirement, tutoring programs must specifically include appropriate member supervision by individuals with expertise in tutoring. Program must identify strategies or tools it will use to assess student progress and measure student outcomes.

Can you estimate the cost of ‘member training’ required by KCCVS?

Programs will be expected to pick up some of the costs related to member training. Members are required to attend an annual Launch. Costs associated with Launch include 2 night stays at the state rate (currently \$69 plus tax) and mileage to and from event. Members also attend a one-day Midwinter event in which programs will be asked to cover mileage to and from the event. The KCCVS will cover meals for members and program directors for Launch and Midwinter. We will also cover mileage and over night stays for Launch and mileage for Midwinter training for the program directors.